

Message Text

SECRET

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41

ORIGIN NODS-00

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DRAFTED BY: NEA:EGABINGTON

APPROVED BY: NEA:EGABINGTON

S/S:MR. ORTIZ

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O 071727Z APR 76 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 083589

NODIS

FOLLOWING IS REPEAT BEIRUT 2980, SENT SECSTATE APRIL 5, 1976:

QUOTE S E C R E T BEIRUT 2980

NODIS

FOR SECRETARY FROM BROWN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE CONSENSUS ON SELECTION OF PRESIDENTIAL
CANDIDATE

1. DURING MY VISIT TO JOUNIEH APRIL 5 TO MEET WITH
PRES FRANGIE AND OTHER MARONITE LEADERS, FATHER NAMANN,
SECGEN OF KASLIK GROUP, COMMENTED CONFIDENTIALLY TO EMBOFF ON
MARONITE VIEWS RE NEW PRESIDENT. BOTH ELIAS SARKIS
AND RAYMOND EDDE WERE ACCEPTABLE. SARKIS WAS THE BETTER
MANAGER; EDDE THE BETTER POLITICIAN. PATRIARCH WAS
PREPARED TO APPROACH KAMAL JUMBLATT TO CONVEY THIS
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MESSAGE FOR PURPOSE OF ARRIVING COMMON CANDIDATE

ACCEPTABLE TO BROAD SPECTRUM OF RIGHT AND LEFT.

2. IN A COUNTRY WHERE A MAGNAMINOUS GESTURE IS FRANKLY
CONSIDERED AS SIGN OF WEAKNESS, PATRIARCH'S WILLINGNESS TO
APPROACH JUMBLATT REPRESENTS A REMARKABLE TURN OF EVENTS
WHICH COULD, OF COURSE, BE THWARTED IF (INTER ALIA) THE
SECURITY SITUATION DOES NOT HOLD OR JUMBLATT DECIDES TO UP
THE ANTE BY INSISTING ON A WEAK CANDIDATE SUBJECT TO HIS
OWN INFLUENCE. BROWN UNQUOTE. KISSINGER

SECRET

NNN

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